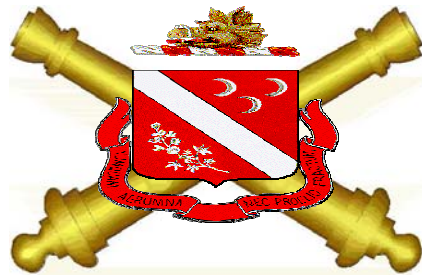


LIGHTNING



BOLT

Never Broken

DUE TO DEPLOYMENT PROCESS AND THE LACK OF EMAIL CAPABILITY, THIS ISSUE OF THE LIGHTNING BOLT DOES NOT CONTAIN COMMENTS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER, THE BATTALION COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, OR DEPLOYED BATTERY COMMANDERS.

Training in Kuwait:



Family Readiness Notes:

- The next FRG meeting for your battery will be:

Battery	Time	Date	Location
SVC	1800	10 March	Yellow Ribbon Room
HHB	1800	30 March	Yellow Ribbon Room
C	1800	31 March	Battalion Conference Room
B	TBD	TBD	TBD
A	TBD	TBD	TBD

- The Battalion Yellow Ribbon Room is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The room is located on the second floor of building 206, Ledward. Please see the Staff Duty NCO if you need assistance.
- The 1-7 FA Battalion Website has been updated with photos of the battalion in Kuwait and living conditions at FOB Lancer. The website is www.schweinfurt.army.mil/1-7 Field Artillery Web Page.
- Do not forget to attend the Commander's Action on 8 March at 6 p.m. at the Elementary School in Bad Kissingen and on 9 March at 6 p.m. at the Kessler gym in Schweinfurt. This is the place to hear the BSB Commander and Brigade Rear Detachment Commander give an update on the deployment and on the support provided to the families.
- Take a break and enjoy a day off from being a parent on 20 March, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Children will be cared for, free of charge, by the CYS STACC program. Open to all families registered with CYS with children 6 weeks to 10 years of age. Reservations will be taken from 1 to 10 March. For more information, call 354-6517/6414 or (09721-) 96-6517/96-6414.

DAGGER 6 COMMENTS...

Soldiers of the 2nd DAGGER Brigade Combat Team (BCT) awoke to sunny skies and 60 degree temperatures this morning in Camp New York, Kuwait. Camp New York has been the temporary home for the approximately 3,500 soldiers of the BCT for about two weeks and they are ready to move forward to Iraq.

The BCT's journey began for most between 10-12 February when we were whisked away by bus to Nurnberg Airport. There, we were processed by the efficient and professional 571st Maintenance Battalion from the 21st TSC. They weighed us, ensured our finance records were up to date and fed us a great meal before moving us to the planes. By 12 February approximately 3400 soldiers from the brigade had arrived in the desert of Kuwait.

When we arrived we had about 6 more hours of processing to do at Camp Wolverine. There we received a short brief and two more great meals. To our surprise the weather was not that hot, but it was dusty. By the early afternoon we were moved a few hours north to Camp New York.

Camp New York is nine square kilometers of pure soldiering – the camp is a piece of desert located about 50 miles from anything resembling civilization, and is scratched out of the desert floor with 20 foot high earth wall on all 4 sides. It is home to 1ID's 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams as well as the DISCOM. Recently a contingent of Marines from the USS Bataan has also moved onto camp. Our soldiers sleep in large tents with electricity and air conditioning (the AC also doubles as a heater during the night. The camp also boasts shower facilities, an MWR tent, a gym, a small PX and laundry facilities. There is also an excellent dining facility, and two short order Dining Facilities, where soldiers are served hot meals three times a day. If soldiers don't want to eat at the Dining Facilities they can also buy meals from the Subway and Burger King

on the camp – and if none of those arouse our taste buds, we always have a wide variety of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE). Overall the living isn't bad, even if it is in the middle of the desert.

But we are here to prepare for our mission in Iraq, and Kuwait has great facilities for that. First, there are the wide open spaces. Our resourceful leaders have turned much of the open space on the camp into improvised training areas for small unit training. Here we practice skills that will be essential for the next year. Then there are the Udari Ranges where units can fire anything from a pistol to a tank just to verify their marksmanship and practice close quarters fighting. Our final training will be a Convoy Live Fire Exercise in preparation for our movement north.

Simultaneously we are receiving our equipment from the port and moving it up to Camp New York. This is over two thousand pieces of equipment (tanks, trucks, trailers, HMMWV's, and containers) we will have moved safely and efficiently. We are also receiving new equipment for each individual soldier (desert boots, radios, light weight undergarments, and even some cold weather gear), which will improve our ability to do our jobs.

Even with all this going on we still miss our families in Schweinfurt. Soldiers form lines at the phone tent and the post office to make contact with their loved ones. We know that your love and support are with us. Your strength allows us to focus on our mission, do our job and come home safely. We keep you in our hearts and our prayers -- Remember that you are with us every step of the journey.

DUTY FIRST!!!!

COL Randy Dragon
Commander, Dagger Brigade Combat Team

MAILING ADDRESS

For A, C, SVC, AND HHB (minus Fire Support)

RANK, FIRST NAME, LAST NAME
NAME BATTERY, 1-7 FA
FOB LANCER, OIF II
APO, AE 09392

MAILING ADDRESS

For B Battery

RANK, FIRST NAME, LAST NAME
B BATTERY, 1-7 FA
FOB PACK HORSE, OIF II
APO, AE 09392

DELTA BATTERY COMMENTS



Before I begin, I would like to thank those ladies who helped out the night of the deployment, by providing and managing the refreshments in the Ledward Gym. This contribution helped to make the evening better than it would have been otherwise. Everyone appreciated the refreshments and the act did not go unnoticed. Thank you.

Delta Battery spent the early part of the month refining its capabilities and planning for the deployment. During the deployment itself, the battery accounted for property, cleared the barracks, stored "ready boxes" for the soldiers, escorted the buses, and reported on the battalion's progress. Since the battalion left, D Battery has cleaned all three barracks buildings, moved into our new rooms and offices, consolidated equipment, and cleaned the motorpools and trackpark. The battery did all of this, in addition to supporting the families and in-processing soldiers. All of the guys have done a great job.

C Battery and HHB had outstanding support at their FRG meetings. C Battery set a new FRG record with over 30 spouses and girlfriends attending their monthly meeting. HHB had over 40 spouses and girlfriends at their meeting. D Battery presented a slide show at both. The slide show contained pictures of the training and living conditions at Camp New York, Kuwait, and pictures of Task Force Lightning's new home, Forward Operation Base (FOB) Lancer. This presentation is available at the battalion's FRG room, in building 206 on Ledward. Some of the pictures will be available on the battalion website during the first week in March.

On the subject of mailing addresses, there is an example of how to address an envelope, to each of the batteries on the next page. The addresses are the same, except for the name of the Forward Operating Base (FOB). A Battery, C Battery, HHB (minus the Fire Supporters) and SVC Battery are on FOB Lancer. B Battery will operate out of FOB Pack Horse. D Battery is continuing to work on the addresses for the Fire Supporters. Due to the task organization of the units, the Fire Support Soldiers' addresses are difficult to track and will change periodically. If you have questions about where to address your mail to, please contact your battery FRL or the battalion staff duty. All can be reached by phone at 011-49-9721-96-6484 (from the states), 09721-96-6484 (on the German economy), or 354-6484 (DSN).

1SG Ebbs and I would like to recognize a couple of fine Noncommissioned Officers for their contributions this month. First, MSG Deich and SFC Murphy. These two senior NCOs performed beyond expectation as they completed their in-processing and immediately jumped into the role of "go to" guys. As leaders, they have run the transition platoon (now over 20 Soldiers), aided in the deployment of numerous Soldiers, and tackled the tasks of cleaning the barracks and motorpools. Without their help, D Battery would certainly be behind, rather than setting the standard in the Schweinfurt Community.

1SG Ebbs and I would like to congratulate several Soldiers. First, SPC and Mrs. Prewitt on his recent promotion. SPC Prewitt came to the battalion from 2-2 Field Artillery, Fort Sill, in late January. He will link up with C Battery by month's end. Second, First Sergeant and I would like to congratulate all five Soldiers who had babies in February. PFC and Mrs. Nicole Gryson (HHB) had a daughter, Emma Marie, on 15 February. SGT and Mrs. Adina Verdeja (HHB) had a son, Gabriel Anthony, on 18 February. SSG and Mrs. Christina Thorton (HHB) had a son, Robert Amos Blair, on 20 February. Finally, SGT and Mrs. Mallot (C Battery) had a son, Jonan Edef, on 27 February. Finally, SGT and Mrs. Marina Agnini had a son, Anthony Emelio, on 01 March. All of the moms and babies are doing well.

Finally, I would like to thank those people who have provided feedback on the website and Delta Battery's efforts. Feedback, from those we serve, will only make us better. We will continue to work on the homepage and add pictures, as they become available.

Victory for our Troops - Victory for our Families!

Dragons!

MATTHEW LENNOX
CPT, FA
Commanding

W. LEE EBBS
1SG, USA
First Sergeant

MAILING ADDRESS

For Fire Supporters

RANK, FIRST NAME, LAST NAME

NAME Company FIST, **UNIT**

FOB **NAME**, OIF II

APO, AE 09392

Unit

FOB

- TF 1-77 FOB Paliwoda (BN FSE at LSA Anaconda)
- TF 1-26 FOB Brassfield-Mora
- TF 1-18 FOB Omaha (BN FSE at FOB Regulars)
- COLT Platoon Lion Base and then FOB Raider (move date TBD)
- Brigade Fire Support FOB Raider

This information does not account for changes in task organization. If you need specific information about mailing someone within the battalion, please contact the HHB FRLs (SSG Monge or SGT Crabill). We are currently trying to get a by name list and mailing address for everyone in the FSE.

ADJUSTMENT OF AAFES OPERATING HOURS

(BEGINNING 15 MARCH 2004)

- Conn Barracks Alterations, Conn Barracks Barber Shop, and Conn Barracks Laundry / Dry Cleaning close on 13 March.
- Ledward Barracks Alterations (BLDG 229):

Mon – Sat	1000-1800
Sun	Closed
- Ledward Barracks Barber Shop (BLDG 228):

Mon – Fri	0900-1800
Sat	0900-1600
Sun	Closed
- Ledward Barracks Laundry / Dry Cleaning (BLDG 229):

Mon – Fri	1000-1800
Sat	1000-1400
Sun	Closed

AAFES apologizes for the inconvenience and appreciates your understanding.

If you have any suggestion, questions, or feedback to improve this newsletter, please feel free to contact CPT Lennox, DSN 354-7097 or email matthew.lennox@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil.

This internal newsletter contains official information, and complies with the provisions of AR 25-30 for dissemination to Family Readiness Group internal newsletters.

Individuals concerned have given their consent (under the provisions of AR 340-21, The Army Act Program) for newsletter to be published. All addresses are cautioned that personal information (Home Address/ Home Telephone Numbers, etc.) Included in the attached newsletter must be protected with AR 340-21 (The Army Privacy Act Program). Unauthorized disclosure of information is also prohibited without consent.

KYLE M. McClelland
LTC, FA
Commanding

